



# STATE SENATOR **Wayne Kuipers**

## 30TH SENATE DISTRICT E-MAIL UPDATE



---

### **Senate Republicans Limit Children's Access to Violent Video Games**

Legislation approved by the Senate and sent to the governor would limit children's access to extremely violent and sexually explicit video games. The legislation would prohibit selling or renting ultra-violent or sexually explicit video games to minors

### **Senate Votes to Keep Sexual Predators Out of the Classroom**

Senator Kuipers and the Senate Committee on Education have worked intensely to assure that sex offenders will not be able to work in schools under legislation (the Student Safety Initiative) recently passed by the Michigan Senate. It is a bicameral effort that comes on the heels of a series of reports in the Detroit News showing repeated cases of sex offenders being allowed access to children in Michigan schools. According to recent news reports, at least thirty-five Michigan school employees, a majority of whom are teachers, have been charged or convicted of sexual misconduct in recent months.

The Student Safety Initiative includes:

- Requiring background checks on all paid school and day-care center employees and prohibiting anyone with a sex offense from being employed;
- Creating Student Safety Zones by prohibiting convicted sex offenders from living, working or loitering within 1,000 feet of a school;
- Revoking teaching certification for convicted sex offenders; and
- Requiring all school employees to self-report any criminal charge to their school district and to the Department of Education.

### **Seeking Nominations for Outstanding Hispanic Leaders**

The Michigan Hispanic Caucus is seeking nominations for outstanding Hispanics across the state of Michigan. The caucus is looking to honor individuals who have shown exemplary leadership in their communities. The categories for the leadership awards are as follows: Fine Arts, Business/Economic Development, Hispanic Advocate, Hispanic Educator, Lifetime Achievement and Youth Leadership. There is also a college scholarship available in the category of Youth Leadership. Nomination forms can be downloaded online at <http://www.MichiganHispanicHeritage.org>. If you would like an application mailed to you, please contact the Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs at (517) 373-8339 or Congressman Mike Rogers' Lansing District Office at (517) 702-8000. Nominations should be submitted no later than September 23, 2005. Award winners will be recognized at the Hispanic Heritage Celebration being hosted at the State Capitol on October 12, 2005. The awards banquet will commence at 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing, Michigan.